

Getting Ready for Friend Day

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Proverb 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

Good morning and welcome to Lighthouse!

Next week is an extra special celebration here at Lighthouse. We will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of our Church.

Most do not realize what an amazing; even near miraculous accomplishment it is for a real Church preaching the real Gospel to real sinners; standing against a real Devil; to survive and even more; to be alive and thriving 60 years later!

Only by the grace of our Lord do we stand here, still reaching the lost, 60 years down the road. May the Lord Jesus give us another 60 to serve Him if He should tarry that long.

Next week is also, by virtue of the Lord's timing, our annual Friend Day celebration. Some of you newer ones are probably wondering, "What in the world is Friend Day?"

Friend Day is something the Lord has led us to adopt that has become a tradition here at Lighthouse. Once a year we give you a special

reason; a good excuse if you will, to get your friends and acquaintances here in Church with you under the sound of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There have been more than a few who ended up trusting Jesus and missing hell who first visited Lighthouse on Friend Day.

Friend Day is usually the highest attended Day of the year here at Lighthouse; even surpassing Resurrection Sunday.

Here is what you have to offer your friends next week:

After the service we will enjoy a special great meal together catered by our local Kelley's Country Cooking with home cooked desserts from our Lighthouse families.

Early in the service, in addition to our usual praise and worship, we will enjoy a concert by the Crystal River Quartet.

We will also have on hand a professional photographer so that you can have a portrait made with you and your friend as a keepsake; all at no charge.

Dr. Lester Hutson, who is the former Pastor of our Mother Church and who is still one of the most exciting preachers around, will be here preaching that day. He has also been a great

friend of Lighthouse throughout most of her 60 years.

We can and will see wonderful things taking place in the lives of our friends and neighbors and especially for the glory of our Lord if we each do our part to make this day all it can be.

It will be a day that is upbeat and positive in every aspect and the best part of all of it is that both you and your special guests will experience the presence of the Lord in this place!

Today we are going to look at some suggestions from the Lord as to how to be the kind of friend that everyone needs. Everyone would like to have a real friend; everyone needs a real friend. The Bible teaches us that the best way to have one is to be one to someone else.

Before we get into the message we have provided each of you with a small note sheet entitled "My Friend Day assignment from the Lord."

As we share with you the Lord's message today, God is going to lay on your heart the names of some folks He wants you to call on and invite to be here with you next week. As the Lord brings these names to your attention, write them down, take this with you and call each and every one of them and ask them to be your special guest here next Sunday.

If the Lord doesn't lay anyone on your heart, you are off the hook; but if He does, that is your assignment He expects you to fulfill this week. The Lord knows exactly who He wants you to invite.

As we prepare to go out and fulfill our assignments this week, first of all we should remember:

I. Don't waste an opportunity to be a friend.

A. You don't know that you will ever get another one.

1. **Proverb 27:1** Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

2. Every day is an opportunity to be a friend and none should be wasted or neglected.

3. However, a day like this one coming up next week when the whole Church is working together to create the most glorious environment possible in which to expose your friends and acquaintances to the presence of our living Lord and Savior is one that should be capitalized on by every one of us!

4. For someone out there it may well be the last chance we get to make a difference in their lives; let us not waste it!

B. They don't know what you know or they would already be here knowing Jesus and serving Jesus with you.

1. **Proverb 27:12** A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, *and* hideth himself; *but* the simple pass on, *and* are punished.

2. You know that Jesus is coming.

3. You know that hell is real.

4. You know that everything the Bible says would happen has happened and everything it says will happen will happen.

5. You know that placing their trust in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the only hope anyone is ever going to have.

5. They don't... Are you willing to stand by and do nothing?

6. Most would say, "But, what can I do?"

7. There is much you may not be able to do; you cannot make someone come to Jesus; but this one simple thing we can all do and from it you will see the Lord change somebody's life.

8. Will you do this one simple thing for Jesus and for your friends?

II. Who does the Lord want me to invite?

A. Everyone, right? Wrong!

1. The Lord can deal with everyone and draw everyone; but we can only deal with someone; we must get specific.
2. Here in our text, the Lord gives us some guidelines.
3. As we look at those guidelines, the Lord will lay someone on your heart and bring specific names to your mind.
4. As the Lord does this, write them down.

B. Invite a former friend.

1. **Proverb 27:2-6**

- 2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.
- 3 A stone *is* heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than them both.
- 4 Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?
- 5 Open rebuke *is* better than secret love.
- 6 Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

2. I want you to think of someone you have had a falling out with; little or major; write down their name.
3. When you call them this week, tell them; "I know we have had some bumps in our

relationship, but I still count you a friend and I would like you to come to Church with me as my guest next Sunday on Friend Day.”

C. Invite a Lighthouse member or former attendee who has wandered away.

1. **Proverb 27:7-9**

7 The full soul loatheth a honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

8 As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.

9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

2. Are you thinking of one of our birds that has wandered away?

2. Write down that name that is on your mind right now.

3. Call them and tell them, “We love you and we miss you and we want you back in your place where you belong; come with me next Sunday to Friend Day.”

D. Invite a neighbor who is close by.

1. **Proverb 27:10** Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: *for better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off.*

2. There are actually three suggestions here in this verse:

3. Invite someone who is definitely already your friend; they may even already be a member. (Write it down; ask them to get photos done with you on Friend Day.)

4. Invite a family friend. (Do you have the name? Write it down.)

5. Invite that neighbor; maybe near your house or at work. (Got the name? Write it down.)

E. There are two more here to write down:

1. **Proverb 27:17** Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

2. Write down the name of someone who sometimes looks to you for advice; it may be:

3. Someone you work with.

4. Someone you play ball with.

5. A sibling, a nephew, a grandchild.

6. Someone you have taught to cook or sew or shared a recipe with or helped fix a car problem; anyone with whom you have had some influence. (Write it down.)

7. **Proverb 27:20** Reminds us that; Hell and destruction are never full;...

8. Write down the name of that one who has already been on your heart; maybe for some time now, that you yearn to see them saved.

III. Now you have your assignment; how should you go about inviting them?

A. First, here are some things to NOT do.

1. **Proverb 27:14** He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

2. Don't call them up or text them early in the morning when they are likely trying to sleep.

3. (Don't raise your hands) But, how many of you have said some not nice things about the time of morning Loren sends out his scripture texts?

4. **Proverb 27:15** A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

5. Don't nag them; invite them early in the week and then maybe text, email or call them with a reminder on Saturday.

B. Prepare with prayer:

1. **Proverb 27:18** Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honored.

2. This list of yours is an assignment from our Master; He is the one with the power to honor what we are doing.

3. First of all, pray over your list; I would highly recommend that you take your list and join the prayer team with it after Church today.

C. The best way:

1. **Proverb 27:19** As in water face *answereth* to face, so the heart of man to man.

2. The best way to invite your guests, given opportunity to do so, is face to face.

3. Do it with joy, a smile, sweetness and expect them to come.

4. Phone calls, text messages and emails will do if there is not opportunity to invite them in person; just be sure to keep them upbeat, positive and sweet.

In Conclusion:

The assignment the Lord has given us today is something that every one of us absolutely CAN do.

We have some of our leaders in office today simply because otherwise good people didn't think their small vote mattered and did not go and do their part.

Your part does matter!

If none of us drop the ball and just say that 100 of us actually and fully complete our assignments from the Lord today; and the Lord just gave us success with half of our list; hmmm?

That would pack this place out with over 450 people next Sunday!

We could start a revival capable of turning this city upside down!

Let's go start a fire that Satan can't put out!